



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

Mr Peter Saba
General Manager – Queensland Developments
Walker Group Holdings Pty Ltd
GPO Box 652
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Peter
Dear Mr Saba

Thank you for meeting with the Department on 11 April 2016 to discuss the proposed Toondah Harbour Redevelopment Project (EPBC 2015/7612), and also for our discussion earlier today. I am writing to outline the options that Walker Group may wish to pursue under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) with respect to the future progress of the project.

The Department intends to advise the Minister to make a decision that the proposal in its current form is clearly unacceptable under section 74B of the EPBC Act. Walker Group has a number of options that it may wish to consider before the Minister makes a decision in response to that advice.

Walker Group may choose to withdraw the referral of the project under section 170C of the EPBC Act. Alternatively, Walker Group may choose not to withdraw the proposal, and allow the decision making process on the referral to proceed.

Should Walker Group withdraw the referral, you may wish to consider submitting a new referral of an alternatively designed project. The Department's view is that a new referral should seek to avoid substantially direct impacts on the ecological character of the Moreton Bay Ramsar wetland. We are happy to engage with Walker Group on design changes for the project that would address the likely impacts on matters of national environmental significance of the project. We would also encourage Walker Group to engage with stakeholders in this process, including the Local Council and the State Government.

As agreed, we have extended the timeframe of the decision making process on the referral from 18 April 2016 until 6 May 2016, under section 75(7) of the EPBC Act, to allow the company to consider these options.

I would be grateful for your advice by 22 April 2016 on how Walker Group wishes to proceed. I am happy to discuss the matter further with you.

Yours sincerely ,


Matt Cahill
First Assistant Secretary
Environment Standards Division
15 April 2016